

Serial No. 09/965,987
Amdt. dated December 1, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 29, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42, 44 and 45 remain in the application. Claims 25-42, 44 and 45 stand allowed. Claims 1-13, 23 and 24 are cancelled. Claims 14, 15, 16 amended. Claims 46-53 are newly presented.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b). Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 12 are hereby cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Claims 6-7, 13, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a). Claims 6-7, 13, 23 and 24 are hereby cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Claim 16 is amended to depend from objected to claim 15 and is thereby made allowable as discussed herein. Claims 17-19 are made allowable as depending from now allowable claim 16.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 25-42, 44 and 45 stand allowed.

Claims 14, 15 and 20-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner is thanked for advising that claims 14, 15 and 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 14 and 15 are herein amended to read in independent form. Claims 14 and 15 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 16 is amended herein to dependent from now allowable claim 15. Claim 16 is now allowable. Claims 17-19 and 20-22 are allowable as depending from now allowable claim 16.

Newly Presented Claims

Newly presented claims 46-53 are allowable as depending from allowable claim 14 and are similar in scope from allowable claims 16-22.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,

Attorney:



Charles J. Rupnick

Registration No.: 43,068
Date: December 1, 2003
Post Office Address: PO Box 46752
Seattle, WA 98146
Telephone: (206) 439-7956
Facsimile: (206) 439-3223